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BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD

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Public Health Department,
Cooper Street,
Bideford.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF BIDEFORD

FOR THE YEAR

1971

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.

Printed by Gazette Printing Service, Bideford, Devon

Report of Medical Officer of Health

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bideford.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year 1971.

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1972.

Health Committee

YEAR 1971

The Worshipful the Mayor	Councillor A. P. Hughes
Chairman	Councillor J. W. Needs
Aldermen	R. D. D. Birdwood, M.C., D.L., J.P. P. J. V. Fulford Mrs. E. J. Brown
Councillors	E. Hill M. Goss H. N. Fulford C. S. Short Mrs. D. M. Morgan

Public Health Staff

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

Inspector of Meats and Foods
Housing Officer
Petroleum Officer

A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

G. H. WHEELER, Cert. R.S.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area in Acres	4,068
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	11,850
Rateable Value (as at 1-4-1971)	£409,847
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1971/72)	£4,005
General Rate in the £ for Year 1971/72	70½p
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1-4-71)	4,000
Number of Corporation Houses (as at 31-12-71)	805
Density of Persons per House	2.96
Extracts from Vital Statistics	
Births : Area Comparability Factor	1.13
Deaths : Area Comparability Factor	0.77

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	
Number	186
Rate per 1,000 population	15.7
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	17.7
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	6
Stillbirths	
Number	5
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	26
Total Live and Still Births	191
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	2
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	11
Legit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legit. Live Births	6
Illegit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births	83
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	5
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	5

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	31
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	
Number of Deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	Nil
Deaths	186
Death Rate per 1,000 population	15.7
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor	12.1

POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS TABLE FOR THE BOROUGH SINCE 1950

Year	*Population (Regist. Gen. Estimate)*	*Live Births*	*Deaths*
1950	10,270	149	152
1951	10,200	167	187
1952	10,170	152	143
1953	10,210	146	152
1954	10,300	159	148
1955	10,220	136	140
1956	10,200	141	168
1957	10,210	174	139
1958	10,340	146	138
1959	10,460	156	157
1960	10,510	174	156
1961	10,600	146	168
1962	10,820	161	138
1963	10,820	176	163
1964	10,820	161	168
1965	10,830	163	169
1966	10,830	169	157
1967	10,850	191	177
1968	11,030	177	181
1969	11,240	167	172
1970	11,500	154	177
1971	11,850	186	186

BIRTHS

During the year there were 186 live births, which was 32 more than occurred during 1970.

Live Births	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	97	77	174
Illegitimate	5	7	12
	102	84	186

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 15.7

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Fact. 17.7

Birth Rate for England and Wales 16.0

Still Births

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	–	1	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births 26

DEATHS

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 186, as compared with 177 in 1970.

Males	*Females*	*Total*
90	96	186

Death Rate per 1,000 population 15.7

Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor 12.1

Death Rate for England and Wales.... .... 11.6

The following table shows the Causes of Death:

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Syphilis and its Sequelae	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine....	4	3	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	9	—	9
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	2	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	9	12
Other Diseases of Nervous System	—	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	1	3
Hypertensive Disease	1	3	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	27	23	50
Other Forms of Heart Disease	3	9	12
Cerebrovascular Disease	9	14	23
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	11	15
Pneumonia	7	2	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	1	6
Peptic Ulcer	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	3	—	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	2	3
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1	2
Congenital Anomalies	1	—	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	1	—	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	—	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	1	1
All Other Accidents	2	3	5
All Other External Causes	—	1	1
	90	96	186

DEATHS OCCURRED IN THE FOLLOWING AGE-GROUPS

Under 1 year	2	35–44 years	2
1– 4 years	–	45–54 years	8
5–14 years	–	55–64 years	30
15–24 years	–	65–74 years	33
25–34 years	1	Over 75 years	110

NEO-NATAL DEATHS

There was one death occurring in infants under the age of four weeks.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Two infants died under the age of one year, one due to pneumonia, another to birth injury.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths occurred of women in childbirth.

CANCER DEATHS

There were 41 deaths from Cancer during the year, nine more than in 1970.

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Oesophagus	1	1	2
Stomach	2	–	2
Intestine	4	3	7
Buccal Cavity	1	1	2
Lungs and Bronchus	9	–	9
Breast	–	5	5
Uterus	–	2	2
Other	3	9	12
	20	21	41

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

Year	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
1950	–	–	–
1951	2	–	2
1952	–	–	–
1953	2	–	2
1954	3	2	5
1955	2	–	2
1956	3	–	3
1957	1	–	1
1958	2	–	2
1959	4	–	4
1960	3	1	4
1961	5	–	5
1962	5	–	5
1963	6	–	6
1964	7	–	7
1965	5	1	6
1966	3	–	3
1967	3	1	4
1968	3	1	4
1969	7	1	8
1970	3	1	4
1971	9	–	9

The total number of Cancer deaths, and the percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths since 1950 are shown in the following table :—

Year	*Total No. of Deaths*	*Cancer Deaths*			*Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths*
		M.	*F.*	*Total*	
1950	152	7	21	28	18.4%
1951	187	12	11	23	12.3%
1952	143	15	14	29	20.3%
1953	152	14	10	24	15.8%
1954	148	11	19	30	20.3%
1955	140	9	9	18	12.8%
1956	168	15	13	28	16.7%
1957	139	8	11	19	13.7%
1958	138	15	11	26	18.8%
1959	157	12	10	22	14.0%
1960	156	12	15	27	17.3%
1961	168	15	10	25	14.9%
1962	138	18	11	29	21.0%
1963	163	11	15	26	15.9%
1964	168	21	13	34	20.2%
1965	169	18	18	36	21.3%
1966	157	15	9	24	15.3%
1967	177	11	20	31	17.5%
1968	181	13	14	27	14.9%
1969	172	19	12	31	18.0%
1970	177	11	21	32	18.0%
1971	186	20	21	41	22.1%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1971, arranged in age groups :—

Age Group	Whooping Cough	Measles	Infective Hepatitus	Tuberculosis	
				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Under 1 year	1	2	–	–	–
1+	–	2	–	–	–
2+	–	7	–	–	–
3+	1	6	–	–	–
4+	–	8	–	–	–
5—9	–	20	–	–	–
10—14	–	1	–	–	–
15—19	–	1	–	–	–
20—34	–	–	1	–	–
35—44	–	–	–	–	–
45—64	–	–	–	1	–
65 and over	–	–	–	–	–
Age unknown	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	2	47	1	1	–

FOOD POISONING

Three cases of food poisoning were reported, all due to sonni bacillus, and all in the same family. The notifications were received 2-3 weeks after the illness was reported.

INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1950

Year	No. of Cases of Pulm. T.B.	Case Rate per 1,000 Population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1950	7	0.68	6	0.58
1951	12	1.17	2	0.20
1952	9	0.88	0	Nil
1953	10	0.98	3	0.29
1954	8	0.78	0	Nil
1955	5	0.49	1	0.10
1956	5	0.49	1	0.10
1957	1	0.10	0	Nil
1958	6	0.58	1	0.10
1959	5	0.48	1	0.10
1960	7	0.67	1	0.10
1961	4	0.38	0	Nil
1962	3	0.28	0	Nil
1963	1	0.09	0	Nil
1964	1	0.09	1	0.09
1965	2	0.18	0	Nil
1966	2	0.18	2	0.18
1967	1	0.09	0	Nil
1968	0	Nil	0	Nil
1969	2	0.18	0	Nil
1970	0	Nil	1	0.09
1971	1	0.09	0	Nil

The following table shows the number of cases on the Borough Tuberculosis Register on the 1st January and 31st December :

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			TOTAL
1971	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1st January	28	29	57	6	7	13	70
31st December	28	30	58	6	8	14	72

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit now visits the Borough every fortnight on alternate Thursdays between the hours of 10.15 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. It is situated at the Council's Car Park, Kingsley Road, and its services are available to the general public (except children under 15 years of age and expectant mothers), and is also available for cases referred by General Practitioners in the area.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47, and AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes, who are aged and infirm and living in insanitary conditions and who are unable to care for themselves and are not receiving proper care and attention from others. Such persons are removed to a County Welfare Home. They can be admitted voluntarily if they so desire.

No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

Protective immunization and vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox, and Poliomyelitis are undertaken by the General Practitioners, and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are three Infant Welfare Clinics, one at Coronation Road (Thursday afternoons), one at the Church Institute (second and fourth Tuesday afternoons each month), and one at East-the-Water Community Centre (first and third Tuesday afternoons each month).

'MEALS ON WHEELS'

This service is run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Services. The meals are prepared at Fairlea County Welfare Home and approximately eighty-four meals a week are delivered to the elderly.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There is an Infectious Disease unit at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford, which serves the Borough as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

SMALLPOX

The present arrangements are that LISKEARD Smallpox Hospital will be the "first line" reception hospital for any Smallpox cases in Devon and Cornwall, with LEE MILL Hospital as "second line" hospital.

The Plymouth Ambulance now provides transport for Smallpox cases in Devon or Cornwall. The telephone number is Plymouth (OPL.2)64101.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Venereal Disease Clinic : This is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, Casualty Outpatients' Department:—

Sessions

Males	Mondays	5.15 p.m.	*Females*	Mondays	4.00 p.m.
	Thursdays	5.45 p.m.		Thursdays	4.30 p.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics

There are three Infant Welfare Clinics at Bideford. They are held on the following days :—

Coronation Road Clinic

Every Thursday afternoon 2-4 p.m.

Church Institute

Second and fourth Tuesday afternoon in each month 2—4 p.m.

East-the-Water Community Centre

First and third Tuesday afternoon in each month 2–4 p.m.

Coronation Road Clinic

Dental Clinics :	every Tuesday morning.
Eye Clinic :	every Wednesday by appointment.
Family Planning Clinic :	every 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening in the month by appointment.
Hearing Clinic :	on the 1st Tuesday morning each month by appointment.
Speech Therapy Clinic :	held alternate Fridays by appointment.
Chiropody Clinic:	1st, 2nd and 4th Monday in the month by appointment. 3rd Tuesday morning each month by appointment. 2nd Thursday morning each month by appointment. every Friday with the exception of 1st Friday in the month by appointment.
Cytology Clinic:	approximately one a month by appointment.

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

To the Worshipful the Mayor and Members of the Bideford Borough Council

Your Worship, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have much pleasure in submitting my twenty-first Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration of the area.

Further steps were taken towards the completion of the Council's approved proposals for the clearance of sub-standard properties. One area of sixty-five houses and three other smaller areas were surveyed resulting in the declaration of five clearance areas. Only seventeen houses in the largest area were found to be unfit. Negotiations were started for the purchase of all the unfit houses and such other properties as were requisite to secure uniform areas, but it finally became necessary to proceed by way of compulsory purchase orders.

At the end of the year, preparations were being made in anticipation of the Local Public Enquiry which was to take place early in the following year. Other official action taken in this sphere of housing was the closure of two individual unfit terrace houses and demolition of four houses included in an earlier clearance area. One house was demolished privately by the owner.

Alongside with housing in the private sector, the Council were reviewing the conditions of the older council houses and the pre-fabricated temporary bungalows. During the year, forty-five of the bungalows were demolished to make ground available for the construction of permanent dwellings. Twenty-five houses and flats were put in hand, and it was planned for these to be followed by a further fifty-six.

Other work of the department proceeded smoothly although it was not found possible to pursue some routine matters as vigorously as one would have wished. By far the greatest amount of time spent on any particular operation was concerned with enquiries and applications for Improvement Grants. A big incentive was given to house improvement in Development Areas and Intermediate Areas with the introduction for a limited period commencing June 24th, 1971, of an increase of the amount of grant available; 75 per cent of approved cost was substituted for the figure of 50 per cent with maximum amount raised to £1500 (£1800 for buildings of three or more storeys) for Discretionary and £675 for Standard Grants. Bideford is one such area but in spite of this incentive many enquiries dealt with including a number of positive applications failed to blossom into concrete proposals.

For a number of years the Council have pursued a policy of providing older council houses with standard amenities which they have lacked, but during the year under review, it was decided that insufficient had been done to achieve modern standards in these houses. Towards the closing of the year active steps were taken to put in hand a scheme providing for a comprehensive improvement of the one hundred and one council houses built before 1939.

HOUSING

The number of applicants on the waiting list for council houses at the end of 1971 varied little from that for 1970 in spite of the number of houses built in the Borough, both by the Council and by private enterprise. The re-housing of persons from condemned properties in the town was partly responsible for this situation as also was the growing number of young families for separate homes of their own.

The pressing need for accommodation for elderly persons continues to be a problem and much effort was exercised towards finding suitable land on which to build; unfortunately this effort has not been blessed with success.

Two cases of over-crowding in council houses were discovered during the year and the re-housing of one of these families was attained by converting two two-bedroomed flats into one unit of accommodation.

Improvement Grants

Work under this heading is summarised as follows:

Discretionary Grants

Number of applications brought forward from 1970	3
Number of applications received	24
Number of applications approved	23
Number of applications not finalised by end of year	4
Estimated value of work approved	£31,063.46

Standard Grants (Private dwellings)

Number of applications brought forward from 1970	1
Number of applications received	27
Number of applications approved	26
Number of applications not finalised by end of year	2
Estimated maximum value of work approved	£7,232.00

Standard Grants (Council houses)

Number of applications brought forward from 1970	2
Number of applications received	6
Number of applications approved	8
Estimated maximum value of work approved	£1112.00

RENT ACT 1968

No applications for Certificate of Disrepair were received during the year.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

No action under this heading was taken during the year.

HOUSES COMPLETED AND OCCUPIED DURING THE YEAR WERE:

(*a*) By the Borough Council		58
(*b*) By private enterprise		85
Total		143
Applicants on housing list at end of 1970		136
Applicants added to list during 1971		151
Total		287
Applicants housed by transfers and new tenancies	127	
Applicants removed from the list having obtained private accommodation or left the district	41	
		168
Number of applicants on list at end of year		119

Continuing the Council's policy for making available housing accommodation to help newly established/expanding industries in the town, six key workers were housed, this number being included in the above number of applicants housed by transfers and new tenancies.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS

Dwellings inspected under Public Health Acts	256
Revisits made under Public Health Acts	221
Miscellaneous under Public Health Acts	51
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	24
Noise Abatement Act, 1960—Revisits	11
Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	117
Revisits made under Housing Acts	101
Miscellaneous under Housing Acts	44
Overcrowding	10
Overcrowding—Revisits	1
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grants)	122
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grants)—Revisits	97
Housing Acts (Standard Grants)	161
Housing Acts (Standard Grants)—Revisits	101
Council Houses (including investigation of Council House applications)	482
Milk and Dairies Order	2
Inspection of Food and Food Premises	78
Inspection of Food and Food Premises—Revisits	22
Butcher Shops	4
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	36
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963—Revisits	20
Factories Act	6
Pet Animals Act, 1951	5
Pet Animals Act, 1951—Revisits	3
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	1
Petroleum	28
Petroleum—Revisits	21
Rodent Control	15
Rodent Control—Revisits	3
Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964	3
Insect Pests	7
Insect Pests—Revisits	6
Mortuary	13
Accumulation	1
Accumulation—Revisits	1
Number of Preliminary Notices served	49
Number of Preliminary Notices completed	38
Number of Notices served under Food Hygiene Regulations	14
Number of Notices completed under Food Hygiene Regulations	18
Number of Notices served under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	1
Number of Notices completed under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	1
Number of Statutory Notices served	2
Number of Statutory Notices completed	2

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part I of the Act

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(*i*) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	—	1	—
(*ii*) Factories not included in (*i*) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	85	6	2	—
(*iii*) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	15	—	—	—
Total	110	6	3	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—					
(*a*) Insufficient	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act. OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome Premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—Making, Etc.	47	—	—	—	—	—
Feather Sorting	8	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	56	—	—	—	—	—

RAINFALL

The Borough Surveyor kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall recorded at King George V Field.

	mm
January	174.5
February	41.8
March	61.1
April	41.6
May....	37.7
June....	115.1
July	41.1
August	78.2
September	23.8
October	98.0
November	113.1
December	63.0
	889.0

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supplies

The North Devon Water Board continued to provide the district with a supply of drinking water which was satisfactory in quality and quantity and not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

As the fluoride content of North Devon waters is only an insignificant trace and is not likely to vary much, samples for examination for determining fluoride are not being taken regularly.

The output of Jennetts Waterworks during the year averaged 493,000 gallons per day, of which 113,000 gallons per day were pumped into the Northam system. The output of Gammaton Waterworks averaged 152,000 gallons per day. As a means of maintaining the level of Jennetts reservoir during the summer the Yeo-Duntz pump delivered an average of 341,000 gallons per day to the reservoir over a period of 18 weeks.

Numerous customer complaints were received by the department and by the Board arising from the fact that the raw water was far from ideal and that the Works had to operate beyond their designed capacity. A trial was carried out on a modification of the plant, and although this was only a compromise, the initial results were encouraging. The expenditure of some £12,000 to enable the works to be converted and re-equipped was approved by the Board, and it is expected that the quality of the water will be greatly improved.

Forty-six samples of treated water from the Jennetts supply were submitted for bacteriological examination, and all but three of these were Class I. Forty-four samples of treated water from the Gammaton supply were submitted for bacteriological examination, and all but one of these were Class I. Remedial action was taken following adverse reports on the four samples mentioned above.

Private Supplies

No samples from private supplies were taken during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage Disposal

In an atmosphere of objection and complaint from local residents and associations, much work has gone into the preparation of the proposed new sewerage and sewage disposal systems to serve Bideford Borough and Northam Urban areas. The Joint Committee met regularly and exercises designed to survey the sea bed have been undertaken. The results of float and dye tests were studied and preparations have proceeded towards completion of proposals. Planning approval to the development of a parcel of land in the adjoining Rural District for treatment works was obtained.

The development of the Kenwith Valley Flood Prevention Scheme proceeded slowly whilst the position of flooding in the area was being watched.

Drainage

Considerable inspectorial time was again taken up with investigation of problems connected with old drainage systems.

INSECT PESTS

Very little trouble was experienced from insect pests during the year. The refuse tip was dusted with insecticide to control fly infestations and treatment will be continued where necessary.

RODENT CONTROL

Work proceeded smoothly with the part-time officer satisfactorily dealing with complaints and routine investigations.

Special attention was given to the prefabricated bungalow site, Vinegar Hill and Railway Goods Yard prior to work of demolition being carried out.

The Council's refuse tip and the town sewers were given periodical attention. The sewers continued to show very little sign of infestation.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

The number of premises licensed as Pet Shops under the Act was four.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered under the above-mentioned Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

The functions of the Devon County Council with regard to licensing of waste food boiling plants for animal feeding continue to be delegated to this Council.

The importance of adequate boiling of the food before feeding to animals or fowls cannot be over-emphasised as it is considered that failure to do this is responsible for some of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, swine fever and fowl pest. Concern was expressed during the year by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at the increasing incidence of fowl pest throughout England and in parts of Wales.

There is one licensed plant in this area, and this is inspected regularly.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

This Act requires establishments used for boarding cats or dogs to be licensed annually by the local authority.

No premises in the Borough are registered under the above-mentioned Act.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

The number of dealers remaining on the register of Scrap Metal Dealers during the year was five.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	1	61	6
Retail Shops	1	123	36
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses....	—	13	2
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	1	14	6
Fuel Storage Depots....	—	4	—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections during the year was 160.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Class of Premises	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	495
Retail Shops	476
Wholesale departments, warehouses	125
Catering Establishments open to the public	136
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	33
Total	1265
Males	607
Females	658

Exemptions

No applications for exemption regarding space, temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities have been received.

Accidents

The Act requires that the enforcing authority be notified forthwith of any accident occurring on the premises which

(*a*) causes the death of a person employed to work on the premises or

(*b*) disables any such person for more than three days.

Three accidents were reported under heading (*b*) during the year, and the premises were duly inspected, but no official action was necessary.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The foodstuffs shown in the following table were inspected and condemned for the reasons stated:—

TABLE OF CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS

Foodstuffs Condemned	Cause of Condemnation	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
29 Tins Meat	Tins blown or damaged	—	—	1	3	9
9 Tins Meat	Decomposition	—	—	1	27	12
2 Gammons	Tainted	—	—	1	23	0
110 Packets Meat	Unsaleable due to refrigeration failure	—	—	1	23	9
1 Tin Fish	Damaged	—	—	—	—	7½
111 Packets Fish	Unsaleable due to refrigeration failure	—	—	2	11	5½
23 Tins Fruit	Tins blown or damaged	—	—	1	18	3½
21 Packets Fruit	Soured	—	—	—	10	8
4 Tins Vegetables	Tins blown or damaged	—	—	—	12	10
5 Packets Vegetables	Unsaleable due to refrigeration failure	—	—	—	3	12
3 Packets Pastry	Unsaleable due to refrigeration failure	—	—	—	1	6½
3 Tins Soup	Badly damaged	—	—	—	3	4½
3 Jars Jam	Broken	—	—	—	3	0
1 Tin Rice Pudding	Damaged	—	—	—	1	13
4 Packets Sugar	Damp	—	—	—	8	0
	TOTAL	—	3	0	12	4½

The number of food premises in this area, by type of business is:—

Bakehouses	2
Butchers Shops	13
Cafes and Restaurants including Fish Saloons and Fish and Chip Shops	29
Confectioners	20
Fishmongers	3
Greengrocers	11
Grocers and Provision Dealers	43
Market	1

10 premises are registered for the manufacture or storage of preserved foods.

57 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, one being a wholesale store supplying other retailers.

In addition there is one registered manufacturer of ice cream producing ice cream by the heat treatment method, and one registered manufacturer using the cold mix method of manufacture.

Condemned food, which consists mainly of tinned foods and small quantities of provisions, is taken by the Council's cleansing department and disposed of by burying at the bottom of the refuse tip.

78 visits of inspection were made to food premises, vans and stalls, and improvements secured where necessary.

MILK SUPPLY

15 purveyors of milk are registered as distributors, one of these being a large concern which is licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority as a pasteurising establishment. This establishment, in addition to selling by retail, supplies by wholesale the remaining distributors.

There are two premises registered as a dairy.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

Home Office Circulars were received including one urging constant vigilance on the part of Licensing Authorities in relation to spillages and leakages of petroleum spirit, at the same time requesting notification of incidents of leakage or spillage notified to them during a twelve month period resulting from carelessness or negligence.

No such incidents arose during the year.

The number of licences issued for the year was thirty-four. Total quantities stored were 75,190 gallons of petroleum spirit and 2,124 gallons 6 pints of petroleum mixtures.

The total fees paid to the Council in respect of the above licences amounted to £121.00.

In concluding I wish to thank all members and officials of the Corporation, Dr. Williams, and the staff in my office for their help and consideration.

I am,

Your Worship, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. T. NETTING.